

## Article - Natural Resources

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§5–215.1.

(a) The General Assembly declares that:

(1) Deep Creek Lake and the land under and around it possess unique and valuable scenic, ecologic, historic, recreational, fish, wildlife, and other natural resource values; and

(2) A Deep Creek Lake recreation and land use plan will:

(i) Protect the resources and natural value of the lake and surrounding land;

(ii) Provide for the ongoing recreation, use, and enjoyment of these resources; and

(iii) Fulfill vital conservation purposes by wise, sustainable use of these resources.

(b) (1) The Secretary and the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board shall prepare a plan that provides for the wise use, protection, and management of the natural and recreational resources of Deep Creek Lake.

(2) The plan shall:

(i) Evaluate the lake, shoreline, and buffer area as a recreational, water, natural, and scenic resource, considering land use, carrying capacity, zoning, visitor access, recreation areas, commercial and private use, and related activities; and

(ii) Reflect activities such as fishing, boating, docking, hiking, water sports, scenic appreciation, natural interpretation, and other programs which provide the public with opportunities to appreciate and enjoy the value of the lake and buffer area.

(c) The Department may consult with the Department of the Environment and the Department of Commerce:

(1) In preparing the Deep Creek Lake recreation and land use plan;  
and

(2) On any other matter relating to Deep Creek Lake.

(d) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary may adopt regulations relating to Deep Creek Lake that are necessary to:

(i) Protect the public health and safety, natural resources, and the environment; or

(ii) Implement the Deep Creek Lake recreation and land use plan.

(2) Before the Secretary proposes or adopts a regulation, the Secretary shall submit a draft of the regulation to the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board for its review and consent if the regulation relates to:

(i) The content or the adoption and implementation of a Deep Creek Lake recreation and land use plan, as described under subsections (a) and (b) of this section; or

(ii) Any fee proposed under § 5–215 of this subtitle.

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